

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00300 282144Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
/077 W

-----129212 282149Z /73

P 282100Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1445  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0300

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE CHOOSES NEW PRESIDENT

REF: QUEBEC 0278

1. MICHEL ROBERT, A LAWYER WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR YEARS IN THE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY, HAS BEEN CHOSEN LEADER OF THE FEDERALIST PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE, SUCCEEDING CLAUDE CASTONGUAY WHO ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION EARLIER THIS MONTH (REFTEL). ROBERT, AGE 40, IS THE HEAD OF THE LIBERAL PARTY POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND HAS HELD A NUMBER OF POSTS IN PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL LIBERAL ORGANIZATIONS SINCE HIS STUDENT DAYS IN THE EARLY 60'S, INCLUDING PRESIDENT OF THE LIBERAL CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL IN 1961, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF LIBERAL STUDENTS OF QUEBEC IN 1962, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF YOUNG LIBERALS OF CANADA IN 1963 AND 1965, AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE QUEBEC BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL LIBERALS IN 1966. ROBERT HAS ALSO HELD A NUMBER OF POSTS WITH THE QUEBEC BAR ASSOCIATION AND WAS PRESIDENT OF THE BAR IN 1974 AND 1975.

2. COMMENT: ROBERT APPEARS TO BE A POPULAR CHOICE AMONG THE VARIOUS GROUPS MAKING UP THE PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE,  
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ALTHOUGH THE UNION NATIONALE MADE AN EFFORT TO GET ONE OF ITS OWN, MARCEL MASSE, INTO THE JOB. MASSE WAS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE UNDER CASTONGUAY, AND WILL CONTINUE AT THAT POST UNDER THE NEW PRESIDENT. THE PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE HAD LANGUISHED SOMEWHAT SINCE ITS FORMATION LAST JANUARY, LARGELY BECAUSE THE PQ GOVERNMENT HAS DELAYED ANNOUNCING ITS SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL, THEREBY DEPRIVING THE COMMITTEE OF A TARGET. CASTONGUAY,

MOREOVER, WAS DISTRACTED BY OTHER DUTIES AND WAS UNABLE TO DEVOTE  
SUFFICIENT TIME TO THE COMMITTEE. ROBERT HAS NO SUCH DISTRACTIONS,  
BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HE CAN ENERGIZE THE COMMITTEE  
IN THE COMING MONTHS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, REFERENDUMS, COMMITTEES, SPECIAL ELECTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE CHOOSES NEW PRESIDENT  
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**Review Markings:**  
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